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Privileges and concessions regarding pensions to employees in all departments of the State.

* 86 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Sri B. Bhima Rao : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the privileges and concessions regarding pensions granted last year to copyists apply to employees in all Departments of the State or whether they are restricted only to copyists of the Civil Judicial Department ; and

(*b*) if the reply is the latter, the reasons why such discrimination is made between the Civil Judicial Department and other Departments?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—"(*a*) & (*b*) The privileges and concessions regarding pensions granted last year to copyists apply only to those in the Judicial Department. They have been allowed a flat rate of pension of Rs. 25 per mensem for qualifying service of 25 years and proportionate pension or gratuity for periods of service less than 25 years. Apart from Judicial Department copyists, copyists are employed in the Registration and Revenue Departments and in Magistrates' Courts. It has been decided to extend the pensionary benefits that are now admissible to the copyists of the Judicial Department to the copyists in the Magistrates' Courts under the Scheme of Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. The question of extending the benefit to the copyists of the Presidency Magistrates' Courts in Madras City is under the consideration of the Government.

"Copyists in the Registration Department have been granted pension privileges as in the case of regular Government servants in superior service. The distinction made in this respect between the Judicial and Registration Department copyists is due to the fact that the former are paid according to their earnings in a month, while the latter are paid a regular monthly salary.

"Copyists in the Revenue Department alone have not yet been admitted to pensionary benefits. The question whether they should also be admitted to pensionary benefits was recently considered by the Government. On the abolition of the zamindaris and the separation of Judiciary from the Executive, it may not be necessary for the Revenue Department to retain any of the copyists in that Department. Most of the copyists in the Revenue Department have already found their way to the Judicial Department in the districts in which the Scheme of Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive has been introduced, and these men have automatically become entitled to pensionary benefits. It is not possible now to forecast with accuracy the number of copyists who will eventually be retained in the Revenue Department and the average emoluments they are likely to earn, as their earnings are likely to be adversely affected by the Scheme of Separation of the

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Judiciary from the Executive. It may be sufficient to employ part-time workers as copyists in the Revenue Department in some districts. It has, therefore, been decided to defer the proposal to grant pensionary benefits to copyists of the Revenue Department till the Separation Scheme has been completely introduced in the whole State."

Tours of Hon. Ministers.

* 87 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Sri B. Bhima Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the tours of Hon. Ministers of this State from July 1951 are for the main purpose of Election Propaganda for the forthcoming elections; and

(*b*) if so, whether advice has been sought by the Government from appropriate authority as to the validity of incurring such expenditure from the Public Exchequer and if so, whether he will lay the same on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"(*a*) No.

"(*b*) Does not arise."

Facilities to students who have passed the Chemical Engineering course for undergoing apprenticeship.

* 88 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : With reference to answer to question No. 10, dated 22nd August 1951, will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether it is a fact that students who have passed the examinations in Chemical Engineering from various polytechnics are finding it difficult to undergo apprentice course and what steps, if any, have been taken to ensure that these passed students obtain necessary facilities for undergoing apprenticeship?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" In the Diploma Examination held in May 1951, twelve candidates came out successful in Chemical Engineering, i.e., seven from Kerala Polytechnic, Kozhikode and five from the Rayalaseema Polytechnic, Bellary. Necessary facilities for undergoing practical training have been made available for these students at the following concerns :—

1 Kerala Soap Institute, Kozhikode.

2 Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry.

3 Government Hydrogenation Factory, Kozhikode.

4 Nance Rubber Works, Coimbatore.

5 Associated Cement Co., Coimbatore.

6 Fertilizers and Chemicals, Ltd., Alwaye.

7 Mysore Iron & Steel, Ltd., Bhadravati.

8 Travancore Rayons, Ltd.